



Incorporated  
**Village of Hempstead**  
*City Charter Commission*

# WHAT IS THE CITY CHARTER COMMISSION?

The purpose and intent of the city charter commission is to establish an advisory committee to assist and advise the Board of Trustees to advance Hempstead becoming a city.

The City Charter Commission is charged with developing a draft city charter that would form the basis for special legislation that would be advanced in the State Legislature. The Commission will be advisory only to the Board of Trustees.

The Commission will meet regularly and engage the community to facilitate community engagement in the form of neighborhood meetings, public forums, mailing or surveys.



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# WHAT IS A CITY CHARTER?

A municipal charter is the basic document that defines the organization, powers, functions and essential procedures of the city government. It is comparable to the Constitution of the United States or a state's constitution. The charter is, therefore, the most important legal document of any city.



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# WHAT IS A CITY CHARTER?

A city charter may include:

- the powers, qualifications, number, mode of selection, removal, terms of office, compensation and hours of work of its officers and employees;
- the creation and discontinuance of government departments;
- the health, safety and welfare of persons and property within its boundaries;
- the licensing of businesses and occupations;
- the levy, collection and administration of local taxes and assessments;
- acquisition and management of real and personal property;
- the membership and composition of its legislative body



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# PROCESS & REQUIREMENTS

1. The VOH Board authorizes a Charter Commission to explore the feasibility of incorporating into a City.
2. The Charter Commission will collaboratively write the charter and define its organizations, powers, functions, and procedures.
3. The charter will then be introduced to the NYS legislature in Albany for approval and to be signed by the Governor.
4. After approval, VOH will conduct a referendum on whether to incorporate into a city and adopt a new charter document.

Note: No minimum size in residential population or geographical area required.



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# PROS TO BECOMING A CITY

Pros: Overall, the VOH will receive more state funding when designated as a city rather than a village, increasing overall revenue. Cities are authorized to adopt local laws relating to tax collection.

- A city can preempt up to one-half of the county sales tax levied within the city
- Cities can authorize a 1% tax on utility company gross operating income
- Town property taxes are no longer paid by the residents



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# PROS TO BECOMING A CITY

Pros: Overall, the VOH will receive more state funding when designated as a city rather than a village, increasing overall revenue. Cities are authorized to adopt local laws relating to tax collection.

- Incorporating as a new city would increase aid under the mortgage tax formula
- Courts: The city is no longer responsible for court salaries and benefits. It is funded by the state. Court employees become NYS employees.



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# CONS TO BECOMING A CITY

Cons: Moving to a city charter will not affect many aspects of the VOH, but additional work will be needed to upgrade current services/departments for future city residents

- City residents would no longer be included in the Town of Hempstead and would lose any services/ resident privileges provided to them
- Town officials might object to city incorporation because it would reduce its population and could pressure their respective State representative to vote against the city charter.



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# UNAFFECTED AREAS OF GOVERNMENT

## Unaffected Areas:

- No change in representation of city residents for county, state, or federal legislatures
- Fire department may continue to be voluntary if the city choose
- Police department would designate Hempstead PD as police department
- City will have authority over planning and zoning
- City judges will still be elected by residents
- Tax and debt limits will remain the same (2% tax limitations and 7% debt limitations)



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# CONCLUSION

Gaining city status for the village of Hempstead will provide immense benefits to our community:

- Hempstead will receive more state funding when designated as a city rather than a village, increasing overall revenue.
- Cities are authorized to adopt local laws relating to tax collection.
- Town property taxes are no longer paid by the residents
- Greater potential investment, increased cultural opportunities, more tourist interest, and a stimulus for civic pride.



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